## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 8-10 are amended. Claims 1-7, 13, 19, and 25 are independent.

The Examiner has required an election in the present application between:

Species A: A First Embodiment, as disclosed in the specification page 11, lines 6-12;

Species B: A Second Embodiment, as disclosed in the specification page 11, lines 13-19;

Species C: A Third Embodiment, as disclosed in the specification page 11, lines 20-25;

Species D: A Fourth Embodiment, as disclosed in the specification page 11, line 26 to page 12, line 5;

Species E: A Fifth Embodiment, as disclosed in the specification page 12, lines 6-12;

Species F: A Sixth Embodiment, as disclosed in the specification page 12, lines 13-19;

Species G: A Seventh Embodiment, as disclosed in the specification page 12, lines 20-26.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Species G, including independent claim 7 and dependent claims 8-12.

The Examiner states that claims 8-30 are generic.

` Application No.: 10/521,567

Reply dated July 11, 2008

Election of Species Requirement dated June 11, 2008

Docket No.:5759-0101PUS1 Art Unit: 1795

Page 9 of 11

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

At the outset, it is respectfully submitted that the present application entered into the

national phase before the USPTO based on a PCT application. Thus, the rules that apply to

the present application with regard to unity of invention are set forth in 37 CFR §§ 1.475 to

1.477.

As set forth in 37 CFR § 1.475(a), an international and a national stage application

shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single

general inventive concept. On August 29, 2005, when the present application was filed in the

USPTO, the Examiner was provided with a copy of the International Search Report. In this

report, the International Bureau maintained all of the claims in a single application based on

the fact that the claims were so linked so as to form a single general inventive concept.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application does include claims that are so

linked so as to form a single general inventive concept. The Examiner contends that there is a

lack of unity of invention stating that the seven embodiments are identified in the

specification. It is respectfully submitted that this contention is not believed to be tenable in

view of the fact that the International Search Report did maintain all of the claims in a single

application. Thus, claims 1-30 should be considered in a single application. The Examiner is

respectfully requested to reconsider his election of species requirement.

The provisions of 37 CFR 1.146 state that a reasonable number of species are permitted

in a single application. The present application contains seven species. It is respectfully

submitted that if the Examiner allows the generic claims then all of the claims should be

Application No.: 10/521,567

Reply dated July 11, 2008

Election of Species Requirement dated June 11, 2008

Docket No.:5759-0101PUS1

Art Unit: 1795

Page 10 of 11

allowable in view of the fact that a reasonable number of species are set forth in the present

application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, claims 7 and

8-12 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the

election of species requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the

Examiner does persist in the election of species requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file

a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if they so desire.

**CONCLUSION** 

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present

application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No.

50,786) at 703-208-4030 (direct line), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite

prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No.: 10/521,567 Reply dated July 11, 2008

Election of Species Requirement dated June 11, 2008

Docket No.: 5759-0101PUS1 Art Unit: 1795

Page 11 of 11

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future

replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension

of time fees.

Dated: July 11, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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